

Questions for Discussion

At the Pre-Solicitation Conference on March 22, 2005, we discussed some of the questions below. We would like your feedback to determine if changes should be made to the statement of objectives (SOO). We would appreciate it if you would provide written comments to these questions to April.C.Delancy@irs.gov by April 8, 2005.

1. Are there changes that you would suggest for the SOO? Is there additional background information that you need?
2. How much time is required from contract award to final test delivery? Would the time be shortened if the IRS provided a job analysis and test blueprint as Government Furnished Information at the time of award?
3. Can you bid on this SOO without the IRS providing a job analysis and test blueprint as Government Furnished Information? Are there drawbacks if the IRS requests another government agency to conduct a job analysis and test blueprint? What impact would this have on quality and price?
4. Would the per candidate pricing scheme in the SOO be impacted by following factors?:
 - Frequency exam is offered per year (i.e., how much will it cost per candidate to offer the exam twice per year and how much will it increase if we elect to offer it more frequently?)
 - Test delivery format (e.g. computer-based, pencil/paper format)
 - Multi-part exam format allowing for carryover of scores for candidates that passed parts of the exam
5. Would exam pricing change if there was an increase in exam applicants over time?
6. Our earlier market research indicated that the test should be delivered in a computer-based format. What is your recommendation?
7. How long would you require the contract period to be in order to recover the cost of exam development?
8. What statistical reports do you provide for similar contracts? How do you measure performance? How do you determine that the test actually measures the knowledge required for an enrolled agent?
9. Is it feasible to administer the examination overseas? Would pricing for overseas sites differ from U.S. sites?
10. Will you likely bid, considering this is a no-cost to the government contract?
We welcome any additional suggestions or comments that will make the requirement clearer.